

From: Kim Dunphy and Holly Schauble contact@manyhands.org.au
Subject: MHI ebulletin March: Lospalos Cultural Festival 5-7 April - Preview
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To: kimfdunphy@gmail.com

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Many Hands International

culture based community development

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News from Many Hands International for 2013

Dear friends and supporters

We write to you for the first time in 2013 to share much good news about the progress of our work. Our cultural assets-based approach is unique in Timor-Leste, where culture is sometimes seen as a barrier to development rather than a strength to be built on. We are finding our approach to be successful and welcomed warmly by our Timorese collaborators and communities. We are pleased to report that we now have seven full-time local staff working on three different projects. These staff members are supported in Timor-Leste by Australian volunteers, who in turn are supported by the Australian government through AusAID's volunteering program. Our team works closely with local community members on our various projects, including the twelve community representatives of the recently established Lautem Festival Committee. We also have increasingly strong partnerships with national, district and local government officers and departments. We're grateful to our major partner, the State Secretariat of Art and Culture for their support and input into our ongoing efforts. Donation from our friends and supporters in Australia also assists significantly.

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Lautem District Cultural Festival, 5-7 April 2013, Lospalos, Timor-Leste

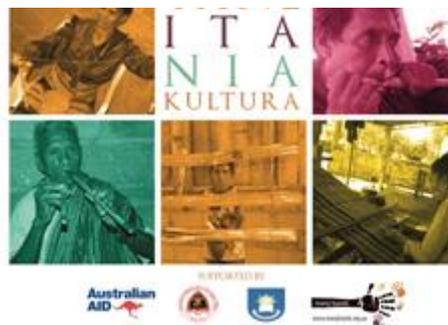
The first major activity for the year is our coming Cultural Festival, a new initiative for Lautem district where our work is largely based.

The five sub-districts of Lautem will join in presenting a feast of traditional culture in central Lospalos over the weekend of 5-7 April. Musicians, dancers, singers, weavers and storytellers from Luro, Lautem, Tutuala, Lospalos and Iliomar will share their unique talents and skills in three days of community festivities. Traditional costumes will be on display and stalls will offer local cuisine. Visitors from near and far are welcome to this unique event. We anticipate much enjoyment from participating groups in sharing their traditions with festival audience members as



in sharing their traditions with festival audience members, as well as stimulation of tourism from people coming to Lospalos especially for the weekend. We hope that some of the micro-businesses we will encourage to provide goods and services at the Festival will use this as a business development opportunity.

Many Hands is pleased to be supporting the Lautem Festival Community Commission led by President Sr Jose Monteiro, who are undertaking much of the festival's organisation. The Festival is also supported by Australian Aid and the Department of Education, District Lautem. Program details www.manyhands.org.au. Enquiries: Kim Dunphy +670 7799 7661 kim.dunphy@manyhands.org.au



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Lospalos Cultural Centre Project progress

Excellent progress is being made on our project to renovate two buildings on the site of the old market place in Lospalos township. It is anticipated that the building works, undertaken by Timorese co-operative Community Housing Limited (supported by the Australian CHL parent company) and a team of local tradespeople, will be completed by May. This will provide the community with a beautiful open-air performing arts centre, workshop and office spaces in which to run a range of community activities. We are fortunate that the building works have progressed far enough to enable use of the site for the Lautem Cultural Festival in April.

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Volunteer news

Many Hands is pleased to welcome new AVID volunteer Lucia Pichler to Timor-Leste. Lucia has extensive experience as a curator, art gallery director and visual artist, most recently as the director of galleries in Mount Gambier and Port Pirie. Lucia will work with Many Hands International for a year, supported by Austraining International's volunteer program (supported by AusAID). Because of Lucia's specialist skills, we anticipate exciting new developments in the small art gallery that is part of the new Cultural Centre space.

We also thank recent Red Cross volunteer Samantha Cooper who worked in Lospalos between October and January this year supporting our Festival and research projects. Sam did an outstanding job developing systems so that our first paid staff and formal office operations run smoothly and professionally. We also thank her partner Warwick who supported Sam in her placement and congratulate them on their recent marriage. We also congratulate our volunteer architect Richard Blight, who continues to contribute so much time and expertise to the Cultural Centre project. Richard and his partner Naomi also celebrated their wedding this month.

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Music-making in the mountains of Ainaro, February 2013

Many Hands was delighted recently to host talented young Australian musician Lina Andonovska. As a flautist of considerable renown, Lina has travelled the world, performing in world-class venues including the Barbican in London, the National Performing Arts Centre in Beijing and the Sydney Opera House. In February her work took a different tack when she led music programs with rural schools and communities in the



mountainous region of Ainaro. Lina believes that music can cross borders of language and life experience. She hoped that presenting music from her classical and contemporary repertoire and sharing Timorese traditional music would encourage her Timorese collaborators to value and maintain their own rich musical traditions. At the same time, she was pleased to offer many children the chance to see a classical flute being played for the first time.



Photo: *Lina with students from Mau Nuno school who performed the traditional Segala ceremony to welcome us.*

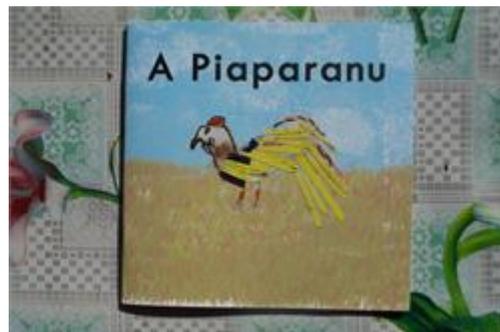
Lina led workshops in seven different schools and community groups. Each school was presented with traditional instruments created locally in our project to encourage interest and activity in traditional Timorese culture. We also helped author Ros Dunlop distribute her beautiful book about traditional music, *Sounds of the Soul*, by giving these groups a copy. Lina's project culminated in two performances. The first was a 'Friendship Concert' in Ainaro town centre, where she shared the stage with Timorese artist Marqy da Costa and local performing group *Nafo Fila* who had rehearsed a new repertoire of songs and a drama piece about traditional harvest ceremonies for the occasion. Despite pouring monsoonal rain and interruptions from a passing funeral procession, the event was a great success. On Lina's last night in Timor she found herself the special guest performer at a soiree hosted by Abe Barreto Soares, one of Timor's most eminent poets. Sr. Simao Barreto, renowned composer and music lecturer, congratulated Lina on her beautiful playing by describing her as much as a 'magician' as a 'musician'. And to Many Hands International, for hosting Lina to share her skills with regional communities, Sr. Simao was also grateful, saying, "Your work is glorious.Everything you are doing is marvellous, important and useful for my country".

Lina's visit was part of the final stages of a larger project promoting traditional culture through a mentoring project in instrument-making, sponsored by US AID; Friends of Ainaro: Ballarat, Blue Mountains and Madison USA, Deakin University and Many Hands International. Ballarat Friends of Ainaro volunteer Kate Owen is to be thanked for her very ongoing support with this project. Her local networks and significant negotiating skills make all the difference. Local partners Haburas Timor, and Director Elizario Bianco, are to be thanked for their work undertaking the bulk of the direct project delivery.

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'First Language First' book publishing project

This project has successfully reached the next stage, with 19 children's picture books created by local communities in regional areas of Timor-Leste working with project artists having been published. 500 copies of each of these titles are being distributed throughout the districts in Timor-Leste by UNESCO, who are training teachers in local primary schools in use of mother tongue as the language of instruction. This strategy is intended to address the very significant issues in early years education in Timor-Leste, where many children after two or three years at school cannot read a single word in any language because their education is primarily in a language they do not understand. The new picture books produced by the First Language First book publishing project are in the national language of Tetun and in a number of local languages, including Fataluku and Galolen. These are amongst the very first children's picture books ever published in these languages. The books are beautifully produced and full of original artwork and stories created by participants in the development process. We hope they will inspire more engagement with reading from many new young readers. Many Hands International thanks our partners for the good collaboration on this project: Alola Foundation; Ministry of Education, Government of Timor-Leste, and; Kids Own Publishing of Melbourne, Australia. We also thank the Project Co-ordinator, Sarah Daley, for her excellent work.



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'Kitchen Talks: the food and culture of Timor-Leste' exhibition, Melbourne

We are pleased to share information about this special project. 'Kitchen Talks' is an exhibition celebrating the heritage and memories of the diverse Timor-Leste culture through images



memories of the diverse Timor-Leste culture through images, recipes and stories by our colleagues in Melbourne, photographer Jorge de Araujo, writer Carmelita Gomes and curator Marnie Badham.

Opening night March 22, 6 – 8pm, The Gallery, St Kilda Town Hall. 'Kitchen Talks' closes with a festive dinner on Friday 12 April at 6pm. Tickets are available at St Kilda Town Hall, 99a Carlisle St or email assist@portphillip.vic.gov.au.

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Thank you for your support

Thank you to all our readers for your ongoing interest and support.

To find out how you can further support our work, go to http://manyhands.org.au/get_involved or write to us at contact@manyhands.org.au.

Best wishes,

Kim Dunphy, Holly Schauble and Lisa Mori

Directors, Many Hands International

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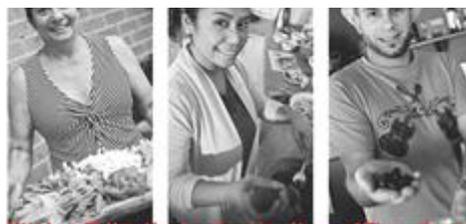
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Kitchen Talks: the food and culture of Timor-Leste
March 20 - April 17, 2013, The Gallery, St Kilda Town Hall

Kitchen Talks: the food and culture of Timor-Leste

is a community arts project that involves memories of first generation Timorese immigrants in celebrating their culture through images, recipes and stories collected in the kitchen with photographer Jorge de Araujo, and writer Carmelita Gomes.

This exhibition is curated by Marnie Badham, in partnership with the Friends of Swan/Cockburn, City of Port Phillip.

Exhibition Opening - 22 March, Friday, 6 to 8pm

Festive Dinner Event - 12 April, Friday, 6pm - 8pm

Tickets for the dinner \$65 and \$25 concession available at ACSQS.

St Kilda Town Hall, 99a Carlisle St.

For further enquiries call 8209 6377 or

email assist@portphillip.vic.gov.au

Lavia's Budo

This is a dish served with almost everything, very similar to salsa, and it has thousands of variations, so feel free to be creative!

- Cherry tomatoes diced
- 1 Spanish onion diced or shallots
- 1 green mango diced
- Fresh chilli chopped
- Mint
- Salt and sugar
- ¼ Lemon juice
- A dash of olive oil

Add all ingredients and gently stir to make sure chilli and mint are evenly distributed. Serve as a side dish.



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